

December 7, 1967

TO: John Denniston  
FROM: Gerald L. Brodsky  
SUBJECT: 3i Computer Operations

During the past year it has become evident that 3i must take several major steps to insure its continued growth. These steps include the development of our own computer service operation and programming capability.

One of these steps has already been taken. 3i has employed expert computer programmers. We have also developed information and storage and retrieval computer programs to handle the Covington & Burling project. These programs are ready to use. They will provide added capabilities for the C&B system, and will overcome a few problems of the Systems Science programs now used.

The second step has been initiated. 3i has ordered an IBM Model 360/40 computer, which is due in March or April. This new arrangement will increase the efficiency of the C&B project, as outlined below. It will also improve the confidentiality of the system, since there will be no third party involvement as at present. The new computer will be operated by 3i personnel on 3i premises.

Until the new computer arrives, arrangements have been made to lease computer facilities in the Philadelphia area. 3i will have full control of the computer being leased. It will be operated by 3i personnel, thereby insuring confidentiality. Non-3i personnel will actually leave the room while we are using the computer for the C&B project.

Procedure for Computer Services after January 1, 1967

1. Questions would be directed to the Project Officer or to 3i by TWX or telephone.
2. 3i could, if desirable, prepare or help prepare the questions in computer input form.
3. 3i would process questions and return within one to two hours maximum over TWX.
4. Actual computer printout would be sent to the Project Officer.

Advantages to New Procedures and Program

1. Greater priority and security over work and data.
2. 3i would be able to input documents directly to computer rather than transport to Silver Spring, Md. from Philadelphia. This will mean less lag time from indexing to computer.
3. 3i would be able to aid in checking questions for the most efficient format and search method.

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4. Many program improvements including:
- a. ability for computer to list all new descriptors added to the system
  - b. document deletion capabilities
  - c. variable length record storage. This means you can add additional terms to a document and more important, reduce the amount of storage needed. At present, records are fixed length.

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Gerald L. Brodsky

GLB/mec

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